

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, , 9, 14, 15, 17, 19-20, and 25-28 have been amended to delete multiple-dependency. No new matter has been added.

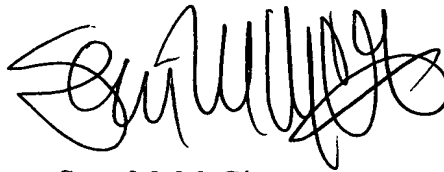
It is noted that the claim amendments herein are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims, or for any statutory requirements of patentability.

Further, it is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

Early, favorable prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean M. McGinn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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12/29/04

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